

Isomonodromic differential equations and differential categories

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ABSTRACT

We study isomonodromicity of systems of parameterized linear differential equations and related conjugacy properties of linear differential algebraic groups by means of differential categories. We prove that isomonodromicity is equivalent to isomonodromicity with respect to each parameter separately under a filtered-linearly closed assumption on the field of functions of parameters. This result cannot be further strengthened by weakening the requirement on the parameters as we show by giving a counterexample. Also, we show that isomonodromicity is equivalent to conjugacy to constants of the associated parameterized differential Galois group, extending a result of P. Cassidy and M. Singer, which we also prove categorically. We illustrate our main results by a series of examples, using, in particular, a relation between Gauss–Manin connection and parameterized differential Galois groups.

1. Introduction

A system of parameterized linear differential equations is a system of linear differential equations whose coefficients are functions of principal variables x_1, \dots, x_n and parameters t_1, \dots, t_d and derivations only with respect to x_1, \dots, x_n appear in the system. We say that such a system is isomonodromic if it can be extended to a consistent system of linear differential equations with derivations with respect to all of $x_1, \dots, x_n, t_1, \dots, t_d$. That is, one requires that the extended system satisfies all integrability conditions with respect to the principal and parametric variables. In this paper, we study such isomonodromic systems via the parameterized Picard–Vessiot (PPV) theory [5] and differential Tannakian categories [15, 37, 38, 23, 22, 2].

To verify isomonodromicity of a system of parameterized linear differential equations, say, with one principal variable x and d parameters t_1, \dots, t_d explicitly means to find d extra matrices that satisfy $\binom{d+1}{2}$ integrability conditions [5, Definition 3.8]. We improve this by showing that it is enough to find matrices that satisfy only d integrability conditions for pairs of derivations $(\partial_x, \partial_{t_i})$ under a filtered-linearly closed assumption (Definition 3.7) on the field of functions of parameters (Theorem 6.3 and Remark 6.4). Namely, the existence of the latter matrices implies the existence of (possibly, different) matrices that satisfy all $\binom{d+1}{2}$ integrability conditions. This result is non-trivial not only because of the method of proof (which uses differential categories [15] and CDG-algebras [39]) but also because it is counterintuitive. The initial explicit steps for this result restricted to 2×2 systems with the parameterized differential Galois group Zariski dense in SL_2 can be found in [13, Proposition 4.4] (see also [47, Theorem 1.3, Chapter 2]). Note that the condition on the field to be filtered-linearly closed is, indeed, necessary as is shown in Example 6.7. This example is based on iterated integrals.

A similar but more specialized question was treated in [19, 20] for the case of rational functions in the principal variable. Using analytic methods, it is shown that, for d extra matrices of a certain special type, d integrability conditions imply all $\binom{d+1}{2}$ integrability conditions for the same matrices. Additionally, it is proved in [19, 20] that, if the differential equation is isomonodromic (when restricted only to rational functions in the principal variable), then one can choose extra matrices of the special type discussed above (for more details, see Section 6.2).

Given a system of parameterized linear differential equations, the PPV theory associates a parameterized differential Galois group, which can be represented by groups of invertible matrices whose entries are in the field of constants, that is, the field of functions of the parameters t_1, \dots, t_d . Moreover, these groups are linear differential algebraic groups (LDAGs), that is, groups of matrices satisfying a system of polynomial differential equations with

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respect of the parametric derivations [3, 4, 25, 36, 38]. Using descent for connections (Lemma 3.11), we prove in Theorem 6.6 that, under the filtered-linearly closed assumption on the field of constants, a system of parameterized linear differential equations is isomonodromic (Definition 6.1) if and only if its Galois group is conjugate (possibly, over an extension field of the field of constants) to a group of matrices whose entries are constant functions in the parameters. This extends the corresponding result in [5], which required the field of constants to be differentially closed. Recall that a differential field is differentially closed if it contains solutions of all consistent systems of polynomial differential equations with coefficients in the field. Note that, even in the case of a differentially closed field of constants, our proof, based on differential Tannakian categories, is different from the one given in [5].

We construct examples showing that, in general, one really needs to take an extension of the field of constants to obtain the above conjugacy (Examples 6.8 and 6.9). The construction of the examples uses an explicit description of Galois groups for PPV extensions defined by integrals (Propositions 5.2 and 5.4), which seems to have interest in its own right. Namely, we interpret such differential Galois groups in terms of Gauss–Manin connections (Section 5). More concretely, the examples involve the incomplete Gamma-function and the Legendre family of elliptic curves. Note that the relation between the PPV theory and Gauss–Manin connection was also elaborated in [46].

Recall that the Galois groups in the PPV theory are LDAGs. As noted above, isomonodromicity corresponds to conjugation to constants for LDAGs. In this way, our Theorem 4.4 corresponds to Theorem 6.3 and says that if a LDAG is conjugate to groups of matrices whose entries are constants with respect to each derivation separately, then there is a common conjugation matrix, under the filtered-linearly and linearly closed assumption on the differential field. This matrix may have entries in a Picard–Vessiot extension of the base field. We construct an example showing that, in general, one needs to take a Picard–Vessiot extension (Example 4.9).

As an application, we obtain a generalization of [33, Theorem 3.14], which characterizes semisimple categories of representations of LDAGs in the case when the ground field is differentially closed and has only one derivation. In Theorem 4.6, we improve this result by showing a more general statement without these inconvenient restrictions to differentially closed fields and the case of just one derivation.

Our method is based on the new notion of differential objects in differential categories (Definition 3.1). We prove that there is a differential structure on an object X in a differential category over a differential field (k, D_k) if and only if there is a differential structure on X with respect to any derivation $\partial \in D_k$, provided that (k, D_k) is filtered-linearly closed (Proposition 3.10). This result is applied to both isomonodromic differential equations and LDAGs. We show in Example 4.7 that this result is not true over an arbitrary differential field already for the category of representations of a LDAG over $\mathbb{Q}(t_1, t_1)$. The example uses the Heisenberg group. Note that the application to isomonodromic differential equations requires that we work with arbitrary differential categories, not just with differential Tannakian categories or categories of representations of LDAGs (see also the discussion at the end of Section 2).

In [26], Landesman initiated the parameterized differential Galois theory in a more general setting based on Kolchin’s axiomatic development of the differential algebraic group theory [25]. Galois theories in which Galois groups are LDAGs also appear in [16, 17, 18, 11, 10, 12, 51, 50] with the initial algorithm given in [13] and analytic aspects studied in [34, 35]. The representation theory for LDAGs was also developed in [36, 32], and the relations with factoring partial differential equations was discussed in [6]. Analytic aspects of isomonodromic differential equations were studied by many authors, let us mention [19, 20, 30, 31]. See also a survey [41] of Bolibrukh’s results on isomonodromicity and the references given there.

The paper is organized as follows. We start by recalling the basic definitions and properties of differential algebraic groups, differential Tannakian categories, and the PPV theory in Section 2. Most of our notation is introduced in this section. The following section contains our main technical tools, Proposition 3.10 and Proposition 3.12. Section 4 deals with conjugating linear differential algebraic groups to constants over not necessarily differentially closed fields. The results from Section 5, where we also establish a relation with Gauss–Manin connection, are used in order to construct non-trivial examples to Theorem 6.6. In Section 6, we show our main results on isomon-

odromic systems of parameterized linear differential equations as well as illustrate them with examples justifying the necessity of the hypotheses in our main result. Also, we give an analytic interpretation of our results including the reasons that support of the conclusion of the above example.

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2. Notation and preliminaries

Most of the notation and notions that we use are taken from [15]. All rings are assumed to be commutative and having a unit.

In the paper, (k, D_k) stays for a differential field of zero characteristic, that is, k is a field and D_k is a finite-dimensional k -vector space with a Lie bracket and a k -linear map of Lie rings

$$D_k \rightarrow \text{Der}(k, k)$$

that satisfies a compatibility condition (see [15, Definition 3.1]). For example, if $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n$ denote commuting derivations from k to itself (possibly, some of them are zero), then (k, D_k) with

$$D_k := k \cdot \partial_1 \oplus \dots \oplus k \cdot \partial_n$$

is a differential field. Let D_k in the superscript denote taking D_k -constants, that is, the elements annihilated by all $\partial \in D_k$. Put $k_0 := k^{D_k}$. Put $\Omega_k := D_k^\vee$. We have the de Rham complex Ω_k^\bullet

$$0 \longrightarrow \Omega_k^0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{d}} \Omega_k^1 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{d}} \Omega_k^2 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{d}} \dots,$$

where $\Omega_k^i := \wedge_k^i \Omega_k$, $i \geq 1$, and we put $\Omega_k^0 := k$ (see [15, Remark 3.4]). Note that \mathbf{d} is k_0 -linear and $\mathbf{d} \circ \mathbf{d} = 0$.

Denote the category of sets by **Sets**. Denote the category of k -vector spaces by **Vect**(k). Denote the category of k -algebras by **Alg**(k). Denote the category of D_k -modules over k by **DMod**(k, D_k) (see [15, Definition 3.19]). Denote the category of D_k -algebras over k by **DAlg**(k, D_k) (see [15, Definition 3.12]). Denote the ring of D_k -polynomials in differential indeterminates y_1, \dots, y_n by

$$k\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}.$$

We say that a (possibly, infinite-dimensional) D_k -module M is *trivial* if the multiplication map

$$k \otimes_{k_0} M^{D_k} \rightarrow M$$

is an isomorphism (by [40, Lemma 1.7], this map is always injective).

We say that a differential field (k, D_k) is *linearly D_k -closed* if (k, D_k) has no non-trivial Picard–Vessiot extensions, that is, all finite-dimensional D_k -modules over k are trivial (see also [29, 43, 42], [28, Section 3], [25, Section 0.5] for the existence and use of such fields, and [1] for analogues for difference fields). One can also iteratively apply [44, Embedding Theorem] to realize such fields (if they are countable) as germs of meromorphic functions in $\dim_k(D_k)$ variables.

A functor $X : \mathbf{DAlg}(k, D_k) \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$ is corepresented by a D_k -algebra A if there is a functorial isomorphism

$$X(R) \cong \text{Hom}_{D_k}(A, R)$$

for any D_k -algebra R . A linear D_k -group is a group-valued functor on **DAlg**(k, D_k) that is corepresented by a D_k -finitely generated D_k -Hopf algebra. Given a (pro-)linear D_k -group, denote the category of finite-dimensional representations of G as a (pro-)algebraic group over k by **Rep**(G).

Given a functor $X : \mathbf{Alg}(k) \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$, one traditionally denotes also its composition with the forgetful functor $\mathbf{DAlg}(k, D_k) \rightarrow \mathbf{Alg}(k)$ by X . If X is corepresentable on $\mathbf{Alg}(k)$, then X is also corepresentable on

$\mathbf{DAlg}(k, D_k)$. In other words, the forgetful functor $\mathbf{DAlg}(k, D_k) \rightarrow \mathbf{Alg}(k)$ has a left adjoint (for example, see [14, Section 1.2]), which is usually called a prolongation. In particular, we have a corepresentable functor

$$\mathbb{A}^n : R \mapsto R^{\oplus n},$$

where R is a D_k -algebra. Also, given a finite-dimensional k -vector space V , we have a linear D_k -group

$$\mathrm{GL}(V) : R \mapsto \mathrm{Aut}_R(R \otimes_k V).$$

Given a functor $Y : \mathbf{Alg}(k_0) \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$, let Y^c denote its composition with the functor of D_k -invariants

$$\mathbf{DAlg}(k, D_k) \rightarrow \mathbf{Alg}(k_0), \quad R \mapsto R^{D_k}.$$

We say that functors of type Y^c are *constant*. If Y is corepresented by a k_0 -algebra B , then Y^c is corepresented by

$$k \otimes_{k_0} B \tag{1}$$

with the natural D_k -structure, where D_k acts by zero on B . Denote the latter D_k -algebra by B^c and also call it constant. If H is a linear algebraic group, then H^c is a constant linear D_k -group. In particular, we have a corepresentable functor

$$(\mathbb{A}^n)^c : R \mapsto (R^{D_k})^{\oplus n},$$

where R is a D_k -algebra. Also, given a finite-dimensional k_0 -vector space V_0 , we have the linear D_k -group

$$\mathrm{GL}(V_0)^c : R \mapsto \mathrm{Aut}_{R^{D_k}}(R^{D_k} \otimes_{k_0} V_0).$$

It follows that there is a morphism of linear D_k -groups $\mathrm{GL}(V_0)^c \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(V)$, where $V := k \otimes_{k_0} V_0$.

Note that a D_k -algebra A is constant if and only if A is trivial as a D_k -module. A D_k -finitely generated D_k -algebra A is constant if and only if there is an isomorphism of D_k -algebras

$$A \cong k\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}/I,$$

where $I \subset k\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$ is a D_k -ideal such that, for all $\partial \in D_k$ and i , $1 \leq i \leq n$, the differential polynomial ∂y_i is in I .

For a more explicit description of constant algebras, consider a functor

$$X : \mathbf{DAlg}(k, D_k) \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}$$

corepresented by a reduced D_k -finitely generated D_k -algebra. Then, by the differential Nullstellensatz (see [24, Theorem IV.2.1]), X is constant if and only if there is a Kolchin closed embedding $X \subset \mathbb{A}^n$ over (k, D_k) such that, for a D_k -closed field \mathcal{U} over k (equivalently, for any \mathcal{U} as above), we have

$$X(\mathcal{U}) \subset \mathcal{U}_0^n, \quad \mathcal{U}_0 := \mathcal{U}^{D_k},$$

that is, all points in $X \subset \mathbb{A}^n$ have constant coordinates.

Given a D_k -object X over k (e.g., a D_k -module, a D_k -algebra, a linear D_k -group) and a D_k -field l over k , let X_l denote the D_l -object over l obtained by the extension of scalars from (k, D_k) to (l, D_l) , where $D_l := l \otimes_k D_k$.

One finds the definition of a parameterized differential field in [15, Section 3.3]. Recall that, for a parameterized differential field (K, D_K) over (k, D_k) , one has a K -linear map

$$D_K \rightarrow K \otimes_k D_k,$$

called a structure map. This defines a differential field $(K, D_{K/k})$, where $D_{K/k}$ is the kernel of the structure map. Also, one has $K^{D_{K/k}} = k$. For example, if

$$k = \mathbb{C}(t), \quad K = \mathbb{C}(t, x), \quad D_k = k \cdot \partial_t, \quad \text{and} \quad D_K = K \cdot \partial_x \oplus K \cdot \partial_t,$$

then (K, D_K) is a parameterized differential field over (k, D_k) with $D_{K/k} = K \cdot \partial_x$.

Given a finite-dimensional $D_{K/k}$ -module N over K , one has the notion of a parameterized Picard–Vessiot (PPV) extension L for N , where L is a D_K -field over K . This was first defined in [5] (see also [15, Definition 3.27] for the present approach to parameterized differential fields). If k is D_k -closed, then a PPV extension exists for any N as above (see [5, Theorem 3.5(1)]). Given a PPV extension L , one shows that the group-valued functor

$$\mathrm{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K) : \mathbf{DAlg}(k, D_k) \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}, \quad R \mapsto \mathrm{Aut}^{D_K}(R \otimes_k A / R \otimes_k K)$$

is a linear D_k -group (see [15, Lemma 8.2]), which is called the parameterized differential Galois group of L over K , where A is the PPV ring associated to L (see [15, Definition 3.28]).

The main notion defined in [15] is that of a differential category. A D_k -category \mathcal{C} over k is an abelian k -linear tensor category together with exact k -linear endofunctors $\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1$ and $\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^2$, called Atiyah functors, that satisfy a list of axioms (see [15, Sections 4.2, 4.3]). In particular, for any object X in \mathcal{C} , there is a functorial exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \Omega_k \otimes_k X \longrightarrow \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \xrightarrow{\pi_X} X \longrightarrow 0,$$

where, as above, $\Omega_k = D_k^\vee$, and a functorial embedding

$$\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^2(X) \subset \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X)).$$

We have the equality

$$\mathrm{Sym}_k^2 \Omega_k \otimes_k X = \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^2(X) \cap (\Omega_k \otimes_k \Omega_k \otimes_k X) \subset \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X)), \quad (2)$$

and both compositions

$$\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^2(X) \longrightarrow \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X)) \xrightarrow{\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\pi_X)} \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X), \quad (3)$$

$$\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^2(X) \longrightarrow \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X)) \xrightarrow{\pi_{\mathrm{At}^1(X)}} \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \quad (4)$$

are surjective (see [15, Lemma 4.14, Proposition 4.18]). For example, $\mathbf{Vect}(k)$ has a canonical D_k -structure given by the usual Atiyah extension (see [15, Example 4.7]). This induces a canonical D_k -structure on $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ for a (pro-) linear D_k -group (see [15, Example 4.8]). Another important example is the category

$$\mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k})$$

of $D_{K/k}$ -modules over K , where (K, D_K) is a parameterized differential field over (k, D_k) . The category $\mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k})$ is k -linear and has a canonical D_k -structure (see [15, Theorem 5.1]). In [15, Section 4.4], the authors investigate differential Tannakian categories. Any neutral D_k -Tannakian category with a D_k -fiber functor is equivalent to $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ with the forgetful functor, where G is a (pro-)linear D_k -group. Note that the category $\mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k})$ is not necessarily a D_k -Tannakian category (even without the requirement of being neutral), because the category $\mathbf{Vect}(K, D_K)$ does not necessarily have a structure of a D_k -category.

3. D_k -objects in D_k -categories

In this section, we define D_k -objects in abstract D_k -categories. This notion and its main property given in Proposition 3.10 are used in Sections 4 and 6 for applications to linear D_k -groups and isomonodromic parameterized linear differential equations, respectively. As we will further see in Example 4.7, the filtered-linearly closed assumption of the proposition cannot be removed.

Let \mathcal{C} be a D_k -category over k , X be an object in \mathcal{C} . The following definition is a variation of [15, Definition 3.34].

DEFINITION 3.1. A D_k -connection on X is a section

$$s_X : X \rightarrow \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X)$$

of π_X . A D_k -connection s_X is a D_k -structure if the image of the composition

$$X \xrightarrow{s_X} \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \xrightarrow{\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(s_X)} \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X))$$

is contained in $\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^2(X)$. A D_k -object in \mathcal{C} is an object together with a D_k -structure on it.

EXAMPLE 3.2. To give a D_k -connection on a k -vector space V as an object in $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Vect}(k)$ is the same as to give a usual connection on V , that is, a map

$$\nabla_V : V \rightarrow \Omega_k \otimes_k V$$

that satisfies the Liebniz rule. A D_k -object in $\mathbf{Vect}(k)$ is the same as a D_k -module (see [15, Proposition 3.41]).

Let us give an equivalent condition for the existence of a D_k -connection. For any $\partial \in D_k$, the D_k -category \mathcal{C} has a canonical structure of a ∂ -category by [15, Proposition 4.12(i)]. Explicitly, a calculation shows that, for each object X in \mathcal{C} , we have

$$\text{At}_{\mathcal{C},\partial}^1(X) = \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X)/U, \quad \text{where } U := \text{Ker}(\partial \otimes \text{id}_X : \Omega_k \otimes_k X \rightarrow X)$$

and $\text{At}_{\mathcal{C},\partial}^1$ is the Atiyah functor that corresponds to the ∂ -category structure on \mathcal{C} . Denote the quotient morphism by

$$\alpha_{\partial} : \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \rightarrow \text{At}_{\mathcal{C},\partial}^1(X).$$

Since U is contained in $\Omega_k \otimes_k X$, the morphism $\pi_X : \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \rightarrow X$ factors through α_{∂} . That is, we obtain a morphism

$$\pi_{X,\partial} : \text{At}_{\mathcal{C},\partial}^1(X) \rightarrow X$$

such that $\pi_{X,\partial} \circ \alpha_{\partial} = \pi_X$. By definition, a ∂ -connection on X is a section of $\pi_{X,\partial}$.

PROPOSITION 3.3. *There is a D_k -connection on X if and only if there is a basis $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_d$ in D_k over k such that for any i , there is a ∂_i -connection on X .*

Proof. The existence of a D_k -connection on X implies the existence of a ∂ -connection on X for any $\partial \in D_k$ by the explicit construction of $\text{At}_{\mathcal{C},\partial}^1$ given above.

Now let us show the reverse implication. The morphisms α_{∂_i} , $1 \leq i \leq d$, defined above give a morphism

$$\alpha : \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \rightarrow Z$$

such that $\pi \circ \alpha = \pi_X$, where

$$Z := \text{At}_{\mathcal{C},\partial_1}^1(X) \times_X \dots \times_X \text{At}_{\mathcal{C},\partial_d}^1(X) \xrightarrow{\pi} X.$$

is the fibred product in \mathcal{C} . Thus, we have the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Ker}(\pi_X) & \longrightarrow & \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) & \xrightarrow{\pi_X} & X \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \alpha \downarrow & & \text{id}_X \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Ker}(\pi) & \longrightarrow & Z & \xrightarrow{\pi} & X \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

Since $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_d$ is a basis of D_k over k , the map

$$\bigoplus_{i=1}^d \partial_i : \Omega_k \rightarrow k^{\oplus d}$$

is an isomorphism. It follows that the restriction of α to $\text{Ker}(\pi_X) = \Omega_k \otimes_k X$ is an isomorphism

$$\text{Ker}(\pi_X) \xrightarrow{\oplus_i (\partial_i \otimes \text{id}_X)} \text{Ker}(\pi) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^d \text{Ker}(\pi_{X,\partial_i}) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^d X.$$

Thus, α itself is an isomorphism. Hence, given sections s_i of the morphisms π_i for all i , $1 \leq i \leq d$, we obtain a section s_X of π_X . \square

In what follows, we address the question whether the existence of a D_k -connection on X implies the existence of a D_k -structure on X . It will be convenient to use the following notion first introduced in [39]. Recall that, for a graded associative algebra

$$A^\bullet = \bigoplus_i A^i,$$

the commutator is defined by the formula

$$[a, b] := a \cdot b - (-1)^{\deg(a) \deg(b)} b \cdot a$$

for homogenous elements $a, b \in A^\bullet$.

DEFINITION 3.4. A *CDG-structure* on a graded associative algebra A^\bullet over a field F is a pair (\mathbf{d}, h) , where

$$\mathbf{d} : A^i \rightarrow A^{i+1}$$

is a collection of F -linear maps that satisfy the graded Leibniz rule

$$\mathbf{d}(a \cdot b) = \mathbf{d}(a) \cdot b + (-1)^{\deg(a)} a \cdot \mathbf{d}(b)$$

for all homogenous elements $a, b \in A^\bullet$, and $h \in A^2$ is such that

$$(\mathbf{d} \circ \mathbf{d})(\cdot) = [h, \cdot], \quad \mathbf{d}(h) = 0.$$

Given a CDG-structure (\mathbf{d}, h) on A^\bullet and an element $a \in A^1$, we obtain a new CDG-structure with

$$\mathbf{d}' = \mathbf{d} + [a, \cdot], \quad h' = h + \mathbf{d}(a) + a^2. \quad (5)$$

By definition, the CDG-structures (\mathbf{d}, h) and (\mathbf{d}', h') are *equivalent*.

EXAMPLE 3.5.

- (i) The pair $(\mathbf{d}, 0)$ defines a CDG-structure on the graded associative algebra Ω_k^\bullet over k_0 , where \mathbf{d} denotes the differential in the de Rham complex.
- (ii) Let V be a k -vector space, ∇_V be a D_k -connection on V . We obtain maps

$$\nabla_V : \Omega_k^i \otimes_k V \rightarrow \Omega_k^{i+1} \otimes_k V, \quad \nabla_V(\omega \otimes v) := \mathbf{d}\omega \otimes v + (-1)^i \omega \wedge \nabla_V(v)$$

and a CDG-structure (\mathbf{d}, h) on the graded associative algebra $\Omega_k^\bullet \otimes_k \text{End}_k(V)$ over k_0 with

$$\mathbf{d}(a) := (\text{id}_{\Omega_k} \wedge a) \circ \nabla_V - (-1)^i \nabla_V \circ a, \quad a \in \Omega_k^i \otimes_k \text{End}_k(V) = \text{Hom}_k(V, \Omega_k^i \otimes_k V),$$

$$h := \nabla_V \circ \nabla_V \in \Omega_k^2 \otimes_k \text{End}_k(V) = \text{Hom}_k(V, \Omega_k^2 \otimes_k V).$$

The condition $\mathbf{d}(h) = 0$ is classically called the second Bianchi identity. Note that h vanishes if and only if the connection ∇_V is a D_k -structure on V . The natural embedding

$$\Omega_k^\bullet \subset \Omega_k^\bullet \otimes_k \text{End}_k(V)$$

given by $\text{id}_V \in \text{End}_k(V)$ commutes with \mathbf{d} . Thus, the notation \mathbf{d} in the CDG-structure on $\Omega_k^\bullet \otimes_k \text{End}_k(V)$ does not lead to a contradiction.

There is a notion of a morphism between differential fields $(k, D_k) \rightarrow (K, D_K)$, which generalizes D_k -fields over k (see [15, Definition 3.6]). In particular, we have an injective k -linear map $\Omega_k \rightarrow \Omega_K$. Given such a morphism, one defines differential functors from D_k -categories over k to D_K -categories over K (see [15, Definition 4.9]). For example, if \mathcal{C} is a Tannakian category, then there is a faithful differential functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}(K)$ for a D_k -field K over k . The following result generalizes Example 3.5 (ii).

LEMMA 3.6. *Let s_X be a D_k -connection on X . Suppose that there is a morphism of differential fields $(k, D_k) \rightarrow (K, D_K)$ and a faithful differential functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}(K)$. Then the following is true:*

- (i) s_X defines a CDG-structure (\mathbf{d}, h) on the graded associative algebra $\Omega_k^\bullet \otimes_k \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X)$ over k_0 ;
- (ii) h vanishes if and only if s_X is a D_k -structure;
- (iii) given a CDG-structure (\mathbf{d}', h') on $\Omega_k^\bullet \otimes_k \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X)$, there is a D_k -connection s'_X on X such that (\mathbf{d}', h') corresponds to s'_X if and only if (\mathbf{d}', h') is equivalent to (\mathbf{d}, h) .

Proof. First let us show (i). The section s_X defines a map

$$\nabla : \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X) \rightarrow \Omega_k \otimes_k \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X), \quad \nabla(a) := s_X \circ a - \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(a) \circ s_X.$$

In other words, $\nabla(a)$ measures non-commutativity of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{s_X} & \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \\ a \downarrow & & \text{At}^1(a) \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{s_X} & \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X). \end{array}$$

One checks that ∇ is a D_k -connection on the k -algebra $\text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X)$. By the (graded) Leibniz rule, this extends uniquely to a collection of k_0 -linear maps

$$\mathbf{d} : \Omega_k^i \otimes_k \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X) \rightarrow \Omega_k^{i+1} \otimes_k \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X).$$

Next, let us define $h \in \Omega_k^2 \otimes_k \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X)$. Put

$$Y := \text{Ker} \left(\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\pi_X) - \pi_{\text{At}^1(X)} : \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X)) \rightarrow \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \right).$$

We claim that the image of the composition

$$\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(s_X) \circ s_X : X \rightarrow \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X))$$

is contained in Y . To prove this, recall that $\pi_X \circ s_X = \text{id}_X$. Since $\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1$ is a functor, we have

$$\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\pi_X) \circ \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(s_X) = \text{id}_{\text{At}^1(X)},$$

whence

$$\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\pi_X) \circ \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(s_X) \circ s_X = s_X. \tag{6}$$

Since the morphism $\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \xrightarrow{\pi_X} X$ is functorial in X , the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) & \xrightarrow{\text{At}^1(s_X)} & \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X)) \\ \pi_X \downarrow & & \pi_{\text{At}^1(X)} \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{s_X} & \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X). \end{array}$$

Hence, we have

$$\pi_{\text{At}^1(X)} \circ \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(s_X) \circ s_X = s_X \circ \pi_X \circ s_X = s_X. \tag{7}$$

Combining (6) and (7), we obtain the following equality of morphisms from X to $\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X))$:

$$\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(\pi_X) \circ \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(s_X) \circ s_X = \pi_{\text{At}^1(X)} \circ \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(s_X) \circ s_X.$$

Thus, the image of $\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(s_X) \circ s_X$ is contained in Y .

Since $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}(K)$ is faithful, we have that $\text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^2(X) \subset Y$ (see [15, Remark 4.21(iii)]). By the construction of Y , we have the following exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \Omega_k \otimes_k \Omega_k \otimes_k X \longrightarrow Y \xrightarrow{\text{At}^1(\pi_X)} \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \longrightarrow 0.$$

By (2) and (3) (see Section 2), we obtain an isomorphism

$$\Omega_k^2 \otimes_k X \xrightarrow{\sim} Y / \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^2(X).$$

Put

$$h \in \Omega_k^2 \otimes_k \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X) = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(X, \Omega_k^2 \otimes_k X)$$

to be the composition

$$X \xrightarrow{\text{At}^1(s_X) \circ s_X} Y \longrightarrow Y / \text{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^2(X) \xrightarrow{\sim} \Omega_k^2 \otimes_k X.$$

It remains to show the identities

$$\mathbf{d} \circ \mathbf{d} = [h, \cdot], \quad \mathbf{d}(h) = 0. \quad (8)$$

One can show that if \mathcal{C} is the category of vector spaces over a differential field, then \mathbf{d} and h constructed as above coincide with those defined in Example 3.5 (ii). Further, the constructions of \mathbf{d} and h commute with differential functors. More explicitly, consider the differential functor $F : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}(K)$. The morphism of differential fields $(k, D_k) \rightarrow (K, D_K)$ defines a homomorphism of graded algebras $\Omega_k^\bullet \rightarrow \Omega_K^\bullet$, which commutes with the de Rham differential \mathbf{d} (see [15, Definition 3.6]). The functor F induces a homomorphism of graded algebras

$$\alpha : \Omega_k^\bullet \otimes_k \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X) \rightarrow \Omega_K^\bullet \otimes_K \text{End}_K(F(X)).$$

The connection s_X on X defines a D_K -connection on the K -vector space $F(X)$ such that α commutes with \mathbf{d} and preserves h . Since F is faithful, α is injective. Thus, we obtain (8) by Example 3.5 (ii) applied to K -vector spaces. This finishes the proof of (i).

Further, (ii) follows from the construction of h . To prove (iii), note that any other D_k -connection on X is given by

$$s'_X = s_X + a, \quad (9)$$

where

$$a \in \Omega_k^1 \otimes_k \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X)$$

is an arbitrary element. We need to show that the corresponding CDG-structure (\mathbf{d}', h') on $\Omega_k^\bullet \otimes_k \text{End}_{\mathcal{C}}(X)$ satisfies (5). As above, by the injectivity of the algebra homomorphism α , it is enough to consider the case $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Vect}(K)$, in which the required follows from Example 3.5(ii). \square

It follows from Lemma 3.6 that if $\dim_k(D_k) = 1$ and \mathcal{C} satisfies the condition from Lemma 3.6, then any D_k -connection s_X on an object X in \mathcal{C} is a D_k -structure on X .

One can give a different definition of a D_k -category so that Lemma 3.6 holds for any D_k -category in this new sense. Namely, one should require the compatibility condition from [15, Remark 4.21(i)] and also the pentagon condition for Ψ in notation from there. The latter condition involves consideration of the third jet-ring P_k^3 .

DEFINITION 3.7. We say that a differential field (k, D_k) is *filtered-linearly closed* if there is a sequence of k -vector subspaces closed under the Lie bracket

$$0 = D_0 \subset D_1 \subset \dots \subset D_{d-1} \subset D_d = D_k$$

such that for any i , $0 \leq i \leq d-1$, we have

$$\dim_k(D_{i+1}/D_i) = 1$$

and k is linearly D_i -closed.

Note that, in Definition 3.7, we do not require that k be linearly D_k -closed, that is, a filtered-linearly closed field is not necessarily linearly closed.

EXAMPLE 3.8.

- (i) If $\dim_k(D_k) = 1$, then (k, D_k) is filtered-linearly closed.
- (ii) If k is D_k -closed, then (k, D_k) is filtered-linearly closed. Indeed, since k is D_k -closed, the natural map $D_k \rightarrow \text{Der}(k, k)$ is injective. By [25, p. 12, Proposition 6], there is a commuting basis $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_d$ in D_k over k and we put

$$D_i := \text{span}_k \langle \partial_1, \dots, \partial_i \rangle.$$

Again, since k is D_k -closed, we see that k is linearly D_i -closed.

LEMMA 3.9. *Let A be a finite-dimensional associative algebra over k . Suppose that (k, D_k) is filtered-linearly closed. Then any CDG-structure on $\Omega_k^\bullet \otimes_k A$ is equivalent to a CDG-structure with $h = 0$.*

Proof. We use induction on $d := \dim_k(D)$. The case $d = 1$ is automatic. Let us make the inductive step from $d - 1$ to d . Consider the differential fields (k, D_i) from Definition 3.7 and put Ω_i^\bullet to be the corresponding de Rham complexes. Also, put

$$\Omega := \text{Ker}(\Omega_d \rightarrow \Omega_{d-1}).$$

Since D_{d-1} is a Lie subring in D_d , we have a morphism of differential fields $(k, D_d) \rightarrow (k, D_{d-1})$ (see [15, Definition 3.6]). Thus, we obtain a morphism of graded associative algebras

$$\Omega_d^\bullet \rightarrow \Omega_{d-1}^\bullet,$$

which commutes with the de Rham differential \mathbf{d} and whose kernel is the ideal generated by Ω . Thus, the ideal generated by Ω in Ω_d^\bullet is a \mathbf{d} -ideal. Further, we have the morphism of graded associative algebras

$$\Omega_d^\bullet \otimes_k A \rightarrow \Omega_{d-1}^\bullet \otimes_k A,$$

whose kernel I^\bullet is the graded ideal generated by Ω in $\Omega_d^\bullet \otimes_k A$. Since \mathbf{d} from the CDG-structure on $\Omega_d^\bullet \otimes_k A$ satisfies the graded Leibnitz rule and the natural homomorphism $\Omega_d^\bullet \rightarrow \Omega_d^\bullet \otimes_k A$ commutes with \mathbf{d} , we deduce that I^\bullet is also a \mathbf{d} -ideal. Consequently, \mathbf{d} induces a map \mathbf{d}' on the graded associative algebra $\Omega_{d-1}^\bullet \otimes_k A$. It follows that this defines a CDG-structure (\mathbf{d}', h') on $\Omega_{d-1}^\bullet \otimes_k A$ with h' being the image of h under the natural map

$$\Omega_d^2 \otimes_k A \rightarrow \Omega_{d-1}^2 \otimes_k A.$$

By the inductive hypothesis, we may assume that $h' = 0$, whence $h \in I^2$, where I^2 is the second degree part of I^\bullet .

Put $V := \Omega \otimes_k A$. Since $\dim_k(\Omega) = 1$, we have that

$$I^i = \Omega_{d-1}^{i-1} \otimes_k V, \quad i \geq 1, \quad \text{and} \quad I^\bullet \cdot I^\bullet = 0.$$

Since $h \in I^2$, we see that the composition $\mathbf{d} \circ \mathbf{d} = [h, \cdot]$ vanishes on I^\bullet . We obtain a (D_{d-1}) -module structure on the finite-dimensional k -vector space V with ∇_V being the map $\mathbf{d} : I^1 \rightarrow I^2$. Moreover, the element

$$h \in \Omega_{d-1}^1 \otimes_k V$$

satisfies $\nabla_V(h) = 0$ by the second Bianchi identity (see Example 3.5(ii)).

Since k is linearly (D_{d-1}) -closed, we see that there is $a \in V$ such that $\nabla_V(a) = -h$, or, equivalently, there is $a \in I^1$ with $\mathbf{d}(a) = -h$. Since $a \cdot a = 0$, the CDG-structure $(\mathbf{d} + [a, \cdot], h + \mathbf{d}(a) + a \cdot a)$ satisfies the required condition. \square

Combining Lemma 3.6 and Lemma 3.9, we obtain the following result, which is used for applications to linear D_k -groups and isomonodromic parameterized linear differential equations in Sections 4 and 6, respectively.

PROPOSITION 3.10. *Suppose that (k, D_k) is filtered-linearly closed and there is a morphism of differential fields $(k, D_k) \rightarrow (K, D_K)$ together with a faithful differential functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}(K)$. Then there is a D_k -connection on an object X in \mathcal{C} if and only if there is D_k -structure on X .*

Below in Example 4.7, we show that Proposition 3.10 is not true over an arbitrary field (k, D_k) . The category \mathcal{C} in this example is $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ for a linear D_k -group G .

Suppose that \mathcal{C} is *finite*, that is, all Hom-spaces in \mathcal{C} are finite-dimensional over k and all objects have finite length (see [49]). For example, if \mathcal{C} satisfies the condition from Lemma 3.6, then it is finite. Let l be a D_k -field over k . Recall from [49] that there is an abelian l -linear tensor category $l \otimes_k \mathcal{C}$, called *extension of scalars category*, together with an exact k -linear tensor functor

$$l \otimes_k - : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow l \otimes_k \mathcal{C}.$$

For short, put $\mathcal{D} := l \otimes_k \mathcal{C}$ and $Y := l \otimes_k X$. By [15, Proposition 4.12(i)], there is a canonical D_l -structure on \mathcal{D} with

$$\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{D}}^1(Y) \cong l \otimes_k \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X).$$

Besides, \mathcal{D} is a (not full) subcategory in the category $\mathrm{Ind}(\mathcal{C})$ of ind-objects in \mathcal{C} and there is a canonical morphism $X \rightarrow Y$ in $\mathrm{Ind}(\mathcal{C})$. For example, if $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Vect}^{fg}(k)$ is the category of finite-dimensional k -vector spaces, then $\mathcal{D} = \mathbf{Vect}^{fg}(l)$ and $l \otimes_k -$ is the usual extension of scalars functor.

LEMMA 3.11. *In the above notation and assumptions, given a D_k -field l over k , there is a D_k -connection on X in \mathcal{C} if and only if there is a D_l -connection on Y in \mathcal{D} .*

Proof. Applying the functor $l \otimes_k -$, we see that a D_k -connection on X leads to a D_l -connection on Y . Conversely, assume that there is a D_l -connection s_Y on Y . Choose a k -linear map $\lambda : l \rightarrow k$ such that the composition $k \rightarrow l \xrightarrow{\lambda} k$ is the identity. Then the composition in the category $\mathrm{Ind}(\mathcal{C})$

$$X \longrightarrow Y \xrightarrow{s_Y} \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{D}}^1(Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} l \otimes_k \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X) \xrightarrow{\lambda \otimes \mathrm{id}_{\mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X)}} \mathrm{At}_{\mathcal{C}}^1(X)$$

defines a D_k -connection on X in \mathcal{C} . □

In general the D_k -connection on X constructed in the proof of Lemma 3.11 can be not a D_k -structure. If $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Vect}^{fg}(k)$, then the connection matrices for X are obtained by applying λ to the connection matrices for Y . Combining Proposition 3.10 and Lemma 3.11, we obtain the following result.

PROPOSITION 3.12. *Let l be a D_k -field over k . Suppose that (k, D_k) is filtered-linearly closed and there is a morphism of differential fields $(k, D_k) \rightarrow (K, D_K)$ together with a faithful differential functor $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}(K)$. Then there is a D_k -structure on X in \mathcal{C} if and only if there is a D_l -structure on $l \otimes_k X$ in $l \otimes_k \mathcal{C}$.*

4. Linear differential algebraic groups and conjugation

In this section, we show how Proposition 3.10 can be applied to linear differential algebraic groups. The main results here are in Theorem 4.4 and Theorem 4.6. The behavior of conjugation under extensions of scalars is illustrated in Section 4.2. In particular, Example 4.9 shows that the assumption on the ground field made in Theorem 4.4 cannot be relaxed. Also, Example 4.7 demonstrates that Proposition 3.10 is not true over an arbitrary differential field, and will be further used in Example 6.7 to justify the need in the filtered-linearly closed assumption in the main result of the paper, Theorem 6.3.

4.1 Main results

Let G be a linear D_k -group over k and V be a faithful finite-dimensional representation of G .

Let A be a D_k -Hopf algebra over k that corresponds to G . A D_k -connection on V as an object in $\mathcal{C} = \mathbf{Rep}(G)$ (see Definition 3.1) is a D_k -connection on V as a k -vector space such that the coaction map

$$V \rightarrow V \otimes_k A$$

is a morphism of k -vector spaces with D_k -connections. Equivalently, for any D_k -algebra R , the action of the group $G(R)$ on $R \otimes_k V$ commutes with the D_k -connection.

A D_k -connection on V in $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ is a D_k -structure if and only if V is a D_k -module. In this case, we also say that V is a D_k -representation of G .

DEFINITION 4.1. We say that G is conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$ if there is a k_0 -vector space V_0 and an isomorphism $k \otimes_{k_0} V_0 \cong V$ of k -vector spaces such that there is an embedding in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$:

$$G \subset \mathrm{GL}(V_0)^c$$

(see Section 2 for the definition of $\mathrm{GL}(V_0)^c$).

Note that if G is conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$, then G is constant: there is an algebraic subgroup $G_0 \subset \mathrm{GL}(V_0)$ such that the isomorphism

$$k \otimes_{k_0} V_0 \cong V$$

induces the equality $G = (G_0)^c$ in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$. We say that G is conjugate to a reductive constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$ if G_0 is reductive.

For an explicit description of Definition 4.1, choose a basis in V over k . Then $\mathrm{GL}(V) \cong \mathrm{GL}_n(k)$ for some n . By the differential Nullstellensatz (see [24, Theorem IV.2.1]), G is conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$ if and only if there is an element $g \in \mathrm{GL}_n(k)$ such that, for a D_k -closed field \mathcal{U} over k (equivalently, for any \mathcal{U} as above), we have

$$g^{-1}G(\mathcal{U})g \subset \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathcal{U}_0), \quad \mathcal{U}_0 := \mathcal{U}^{D_k}.$$

EXAMPLE 4.2. Let $k = k_0(t)$, $D_k = k \cdot \partial_t$, $G \subset \mathbf{G}_a$ be given by the linear equation

$$\partial_t^2 u = 0, \quad u \in \mathbf{G}_a,$$

and let V be a faithful representation of G given by the faithful upper-triangular two-dimensional representation of \mathbf{G}_a . Then

$$G \cong (\mathbf{G}_a^2)^c$$

is constant, because $\partial_t^2(1) = \partial_t^2(t) = 0$. On the other hand, G is not conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$, because there are no faithful two-dimensional representations of the linear algebraic group \mathbf{G}_a^2 over k_0 . This shows that a constant linear D_k -group is not necessarily conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$ for a faithful representation V of G .

The following result is also proved in [36, Corollary 1] but only for the case of a differentially closed field with one derivation.

PROPOSITION 4.3. The D_k -group G is conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$ if and only if there is a D_k -structure on V in $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ such that V is a trivial D_k -module.

Proof. If G is conjugate to a constant subgroup, then the isomorphism $k \otimes_{k_0} V_0 \cong V$ defines a D_k -structure on V in $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$, where V_0 is as in Definition 4.1. Conversely, suppose that we are given a D_k -structure on V that satisfies the hypothesis of the proposition. Then put $V_0 := V^{D_k}$. \square

Combining Proposition 3.10, Proposition 3.3, and Proposition 4.3, we obtain the following result.

THEOREM 4.4. Suppose that (k, D_k) is filtered-linearly closed (see Definition 3.7) and linearly D_k -closed (see the comment following Definition 3.7). Then G is conjugate to a D_k -constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$ if and only if there is a (possibly, non-commuting) basis $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_d$ in D_k over k such that, for all i , $1 \leq i \leq d$, G is conjugate to a ∂_i -constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$.

Let l be a D_k -field over k , $D_l := l \otimes_k D_k$. We have $l \otimes_k \mathbf{Rep}(G) \cong \mathbf{Rep}(G_l)$. Combining Proposition 3.12 and Proposition 4.3, we obtain the following result.

PROPOSITION 4.5. *Suppose that (k, D_k) is filtered-linearly closed and l is linearly D_l -closed. Then the linear D_l -group G_l is conjugate to a D_l -constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V_l)$ if and only if there is a D_k -structure on V in $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$.*

The following result is also proved in [33, Theorem 3.14] but just for the case of a differentially closed field with one derivation.

THEOREM 4.6. *Suppose that (l, D_l) is filtered-linearly closed and linearly D_l -closed. Then the linear D_l -group G_l is conjugate to a reductive constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V_l)$ if and only if the category $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ is semisimple.*

Proof. We will use the following fact: given a field extension $E \subset F$, a Hopf algebra A over E corresponds to a reductive linear algebraic group over E if and only if this holds for the extension of scalars A_F over F (see [9, Remarque 2.1.3(ii)]).

Assume that G_l is conjugate to a reductive constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V_l)$. By the fact above, this implies that G is a reductive algebraic group over k (with the D_k -structure forgotten). Since $\mathrm{char} k = 0$, we obtain that $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ is semisimple (see [48, Chapter 2]).

Now assume that $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ is semisimple. Then there is a D_k -connection on V as all exact sequences in $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ are split. This induces a D_l -connection on V_l in $\mathbf{Rep}(G_l)$. By Proposition 3.10, there is a D_l -structure on V_l in $\mathbf{Rep}(G_l)$. By Proposition 4.3, G_l is conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V_l)$. Hence, $k[G]$ is a finitely generated algebra over k . Since $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ is semisimple and $\mathrm{char} k = 0$, we obtain that G is reductive as an algebraic group over k . Again, by [9, Remarque 2.1.3(ii)], this implies that G_l is conjugate to a reductive constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(V_l)$. \square

4.2 Examples

First, we provide a non-trivial example to Proposition 3.10.

EXAMPLE 4.7. Let

$$k := \mathbb{Q}(t_1, t_2) \quad \text{and} \quad D_k := k \cdot \partial_{t_1} \oplus k \cdot \partial_{t_2}.$$

Let V be a 3-dimensional k -vector space with a basis $\bar{e} := (e_1, e_2, e_3)$. Consider the D_k -connection ∇_V on V given by

$$\nabla_V(\bar{e}) := -\mathbf{d}t_1 \otimes \bar{e} \cdot B_1 - \mathbf{d}t_2 \otimes \bar{e} \cdot B_2,$$

where

$$B_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{t_1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_2 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{t_2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

That is, we have

$$\partial_{t_i}(\bar{e}) = -\bar{e} \cdot B_i.$$

Note that

$$\partial_{t_2} B_1 - \partial_{t_1} B_2 - [B_2, B_1] = \frac{1}{t_1 t_2} \cdot \varepsilon, \quad \text{where} \quad \varepsilon := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (10)$$

In particular, the D_k -connection ∇_V on V is not a D_k -structure on V . Further, consider the unipotent subgroup U

in $\mathrm{GL}(V)$ that consists of matrices of the following form (with respect to the basis \bar{e}):

$$g(u_1, u_2, v) := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & u_1 & v \\ 0 & 1 & u_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let G be the linear D_k -subgroup in U given by the equations

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{t_i} u_j &= 0, \quad i = 1, 2, j = 1, 2, \\ \partial_{t_1} v &= \frac{1}{t_1} \cdot u_2, \quad \partial_{t_2} v = -\frac{1}{t_2} u_1. \end{aligned}$$

Note that these equations are equivalent to the equations

$$\partial_{t_i} g(u_1, u_2, v) + [g(u_1, u_2, v), B_i] = 0, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

This means that the action of G on V commutes with the action of D_k (see also the discussion following Lemma 4.8), that is, ∇_V is a D_k -connection on V as an object in $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$.

Let us show that there is no D_k -structure on V in $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$. Assume the converse. By (9) (see Section 3), this means that there exist $C_1, C_2 \in \mathrm{End}_G(V)$ such that

$$\partial_{t_2} A_1 - \partial_{t_1} A_2 - [A_2, A_1] = 0, \quad A_i := B_i + C_i, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (11)$$

A calculation shows that we have an isomorphism (via choosing the basis \bar{e})

$$\mathrm{End}_G(V) \cong k \cdot \mathrm{Id} \oplus k \cdot \varepsilon. \quad (12)$$

Since

$$[B_i, \varepsilon] = 0, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

we see that (10) and (12) imply that (11) holds if and only if there exist $f_1, f_2 \in k$ such that

$$\frac{1}{t_1 t_2} + \partial_{t_2} f_1 - \partial_{t_1} f_2 = 0. \quad (13)$$

This implies that the coefficient of t_1^{-1} with values in $\mathbb{Q}(t_2)$ of the function

$$\frac{1}{t_1 t_2} + \partial_{t_2} f_1$$

vanishes. Therefore, we have

$$\frac{1}{t_2} + \partial_{t_2} (a_{-1}) = 0, \quad \text{where} \quad f_1 = \sum_i a_i t_1^i, \quad a_i \in \mathbb{Q}(t_2).$$

This gives a contradiction. Thus, we see that Proposition 3.10 is not true over an arbitrary field (k, D_k) .

Next, we describe two types of D_k -subgroups in $\mathrm{GL}_n(k)$ that are not constant over k but are conjugate to constant subgroups in $\mathrm{GL}_n(l)$ over l , where l is a Picard–Vessiot extension of k . Let M be a finite-dimensional D_k -module over k .

LEMMA 4.8. *The group-valued functor*

$$\mathrm{GL}^{D_k}(M) : \mathbf{DAlg}(k, D_k) \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}, \quad R \mapsto \mathrm{Aut}_R^{D_k}(R \otimes_k M)$$

is represented by a linear D_k -group.

Proof. The corresponding finitely generated D_k -Hopf algebra is the Hopf algebra of the algebraic group $\mathrm{GL}(M)$ over k with the D_k -structure obtained by the localization over the determinant of the D_k -structure on the symmetric algebra of the D_k -module $\mathrm{End}_k(M) \cong M^\vee \otimes_k M$. \square

For an explicit description of $\mathrm{GL}^{D_k}(M)$, choose a basis $\bar{e} = (e_1, \dots, e_n)$ in M over k . Then $\mathrm{GL}(M) \cong \mathrm{GL}_n(k)$. For each $\partial \in D_k$, denote the corresponding connection $(n \times n)$ -matrix by A_∂ , that is, we have

$$\partial(\bar{e}) = -\bar{e} \cdot A_\partial.$$

By definition, $\mathrm{GL}^{D_k}(M)$ consists of invertible $(n \times n)$ -matrices such that the corresponding gauge transformation preserves the connection matrices A_∂ for all $\partial \in D_k$. Thus, $\mathrm{GL}^{D_k}(M)$ is given by the differential equations

$$\partial g + [g, A_\partial] = 0, \quad g \in \mathrm{GL}_n(k), \quad \partial \in D_k.$$

Note that $\mathrm{GL}^{D_k}(M)$ is a closed linear D_k -subgroup in the linear D_k -group $\mathrm{GL}(M)$ and M is faithful a D_k -representation of $\mathrm{GL}^{D_k}(M)$. A morphism of linear D_k -groups

$$G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}^{D_k}(M)$$

corresponds to a D_k -representation V of G such that $V \cong M$ as D_k -modules.

It follows directly from the proof of Lemma 4.8 that the linear D_k -group $\mathrm{GL}^{D_k}(M)$ is constant if and only if the D_k -module

$$M^\vee \otimes_k M$$

is trivial, because a submodule of a trivial D_k -module is trivial and the determinant is a D_k -constant in $\mathrm{Sym}_k^n(M^\vee \otimes_k M)$. Besides, if M is trivial, then $\mathrm{GL}^{D_k}(M)$ is conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}(M)$ (the converse is not true already for $\dim_k(M) = 1$).

EXAMPLE 4.9. Consider the differential field

$$k = \mathbb{Q}(t_1, t_2), \quad D_k := k \cdot \partial_{t_1} \oplus k \cdot \partial_{t_2}$$

and the D_k -module $M := \mathbb{1} \oplus L$, where

$$L = k \cdot e, \quad \partial_{t_1}(e) = 0, \quad \partial_{t_2}(e) = e.$$

Since the D_k -module

$$M^\vee \otimes_k M \cong \mathbb{1} \oplus L \oplus L^\vee \oplus \mathbb{1}$$

is not trivial, the linear D_k -group

$$G := \mathrm{GL}^{D_k}(M) \subset \mathrm{GL}_2(k)$$

is not constant and henceforth G is not conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}_2(k)$. Put

$$\partial_1 := t_1 \partial_{t_1}, \quad \partial_2 := t_1 \partial_{t_1} + \partial_{t_2}.$$

Then $[\partial_1, \partial_2] = 0$ and L is a trivial ∂_2 -module as

$$\partial_2(t_1^{-1} \cdot e) = 0.$$

Therefore, M is a trivial ∂_i -module for $i = 1, 2$. By Proposition 4.3, G is conjugate to a ∂_i -constant subgroup in $\mathrm{GL}_2(k)$ separately with respect to each i . This shows that Theorem 4.4 is not true for an arbitrary (k, D_k) .

The following type of non-constant groups will be used in Section 6 in order to construct non-trivial examples to Theorem 6.6.

LEMMA 4.10. *The group valued functor*

$$M^{D_k} : \mathbf{DAlg}(k, D_k) \rightarrow \mathbf{Sets}, \quad R \mapsto (R \otimes_k M)^{D_k}$$

is represented by a linear D_k -group.

Proof. The corresponding finitely generated D_k -Hopf algebra is the Hopf algebra of $(M, +)$, that is, the symmetric algebra of M^\vee , with the induced D_k -structure (see also [40, Lemma 2.16]). \square

For an explicit description of M^{D_k} , choose a basis in M over k . Then

$$(M, +) \cong \mathbf{G}_a^n$$

for some n . For each $\partial \in D_k$, denote the corresponding connection $(n \times n)$ -matrix by A_∂ . Then M^{D_k} is given by the differential equations

$$\partial y = A_\partial \cdot y, \quad y \in \mathbf{G}_a^n, \quad \partial \in D_k.$$

Note that M^{D_k} is a closed linear D_k -subgroup in the linear D_k -group M . One can show that a linear D_k -group G is isomorphic to $(\mathbf{G}_a^n)^c$ over some D_k -field l over k if and only if $G \cong M^{D_k}$ for some n -dimensional D_k -module M over k (see also [3, Proposition 11]).

Assume that $D_k = k \cdot \partial$ for a derivation $\partial : k \rightarrow k$ and $k_0 \neq k$. Let $m \in M$ be a cyclic vector (see [40, Definition 2.8]). Let $0 \neq D$ be a linear ∂ -operator with coefficients in k of the smallest order such that $Dm = 0$, which exists because M is finite-dimensional over k . Then

$$(M^\vee)^{D_k}$$

is isomorphic to the D_k -subgroup in \mathbf{G}_a given by the equation

$$Du = 0, \quad u \in \mathbf{G}_a,$$

because they represent the same functor (see [40, Lemma 2.16]).

Remark 4.11.

- (i) There is a faithful D_k -representation V_M of M^{D_k} defined as follows: as a D_k -module, V_M is $M \oplus \mathbb{1}$, and the action of M^{D_k} is given by

$$m : (n, c) \mapsto (n + c \cdot m, c),$$

where $m \in M^{D_k}$, $n \in M$, and $c \in k$. We have an exact sequence of D_k -representations of M^{D_k}

$$0 \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow V_M \longrightarrow \mathbb{1} \longrightarrow 0,$$

where M^{D_k} acts trivially on the D_k -modules M and $\mathbb{1}$.

- (ii) One can show that there is a bijection between morphisms of linear D_k -groups $G \rightarrow M^{D_k}$ and isomorphism classes of exact sequences of D_k -representations of G

$$0 \longrightarrow M \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow \mathbb{1} \longrightarrow 0,$$

where G acts trivially on the D_k -modules M and $\mathbb{1}$. An argument shows that this implies that, for a linear D_k -group G , the category $\mathbf{Rep}(G)$ is D_k -equivalent to $\mathbf{Rep}(M^{D_k})$ if and only if $G \cong M^{D_k}$.

5. Gauss–Manin connection and parameterized differential Galois groups

The main results of this section, Proposition 5.2 and Proposition 5.4, are used in Section 6.3 in order to construct non-trivial examples to Theorem 6.6. The constructions and results of this section seem to have also their own interest in the parameterized differential Galois theory.

5.1 Gauss–Manin connection

We define algebraically a Gauss–Manin connection, which is used to describe a parameterized differential Galois group of integrals in Section 5.2. For this, we use the Gauss–Manin connection on H^1 only, so that the reader may put $i = 1$ in what follows if desired.

For any differential field (K, D_K) , let $H^i(K, D_K)$ denote the cohomology groups of the de Rham complex Ω_K^\bullet (see Section 2). That is, we have

$$H^i(K, D_K) := \text{Ker}\left(\Omega_K^i \xrightarrow{d} \Omega_K^{i+1}\right) / \text{Im}\left(\Omega_K^{i-1} \xrightarrow{d} \Omega_K^i\right), \quad i \geq 1,$$

and $H^0(K, D_K) = K^{D_K}$. Recall that, for $\partial \in D_K$, the Lie derivative is defined as follows (see [15, Section 3.10]):

$$L_\partial = \mathbf{d} \circ i_\partial + i_\partial \circ \mathbf{d} : \Omega_K^i \rightarrow \Omega_K^i,$$

where

$$i_\partial : \Omega_K^i \rightarrow \Omega_K^{i-1}, \quad \omega \mapsto \{a \mapsto \omega(\partial \wedge a), \quad a \in \wedge_K^{i-1} D_K\}, \quad i \geq 1$$

and $i_\partial = 0$ for $i = 0$. In particular,

$$L_\partial(a) = \partial(a) \quad \text{for any } a \in K.$$

It follows from the definition that the Lie derivative commutes with \mathbf{d} , acts as zero on $H^i(K, D_K)$, satisfies the Leibniz rule

$$L_\partial(\omega \wedge \eta) = L_\partial(\omega) \wedge \eta + \omega \wedge L_\partial(\eta)$$

for all $\omega \in \Omega_K^i, \eta \in \Omega_K^j, i, j \geq 0$, and we have

$$L_{[\partial, \delta]} = [L_\partial, L_\delta] \quad \text{for all } \partial, \delta \in D_K.$$

Let now (K, D_K) be a parameterized differential field over (k, D_k) . We have the relative de Rham complex $\Omega_{K/k}^\bullet$, where

$$\Omega_{K/k} := D_{K/k}^\vee.$$

For short, put

$$H^i(K/k) := H^i(K, D_{K/k}), \quad i \geq 0.$$

Then $H^i(K/k)$ are k -vector spaces, because the differential on $\Omega_{K/k}^\bullet$ is k -linear. Moreover, there is a canonical D_k -structure on $H^i(K/k)$, called a *Gauss–Manin connection* and constructed as follows.

For $\partial \in D_k$, let $\tilde{\partial} \in D_K$ be any lift of $1 \otimes \partial$ with respect to the structure map $D_K \rightarrow K \otimes_k D_k$. One checks that the action of $L_{\tilde{\partial}}$ on Ω_K preserves Ω_k . Since the kernel

$$C^\bullet := \text{Ker} \left(\Omega_K^\bullet \rightarrow \Omega_{K/k}^\bullet \right)$$

is generated by Ω_k as an ideal in Ω_K^\bullet with respect to the wedge product and $L_{\tilde{\partial}}$ satisfies the Leibniz rule as mentioned above, we see that the action of $L_{\tilde{\partial}}$ on Ω_K^\bullet preserves the subcomplex C^\bullet . Therefore, $L_{\tilde{\partial}}$ is well-defined on the quotient $\Omega_{K/k}^\bullet$. Since $D_{K/k}$ acts as zero on $H^i(K/k)$, we obtain a well-defined action of D_k on $H^i(K/k)$. Finally, one checks that the corresponding map

$$D_k \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathbb{Z}}(H^i(K/k))$$

is k -linear, whence $H^i(K/k)$ is a D_k -module.

Explicitly, for any $\omega \in \Omega_{K/k}^i$ with $\mathbf{d}\omega = 0$, we have

$$\partial[\omega] = [L_{\tilde{\partial}}(\tilde{\omega})], \tag{14}$$

where $\tilde{\omega} \in \Omega_K^i$ is any lift of ω with respect to the map $\Omega_K^i \rightarrow \Omega_{K/k}^i$, and the brackets denote taking the class in $H^i(K/k)$. The preceding discussion shows that $\partial[\omega]$ is well-defined.

EXAMPLE 5.1.

(i) We have $H^0(K/k) = K^{D_{K/k}} = k$ with the usual D_k -structure.

(ii) Suppose that $D_{K/k} = K \cdot \partial_x$. Then

$$\Omega_{K/k} = \Omega_{K/k}^1 = K \cdot \omega_x \quad \text{with} \quad \omega_x(\partial_x) = 1, \quad \mathbf{d}a = \partial_x(a) \cdot \omega_x$$

for any $a \in K$, and $\Omega_{K/k}^i = 0$ for $i \geq 2$. Hence, there is an isomorphism

$$K/(\partial_x K) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^1(K/k), \quad [a] \mapsto [a \cdot \omega_x],$$

where $a \in K$. Under the above isomorphism, the Gauss–Manin connection on $H^1(K/k)$ corresponds to the D_k -structure on $K/(\partial_x K)$ given by

$$\partial[a] = [\tilde{\partial}(a)], \quad \partial \in D_k,$$

where, as above, $\tilde{\partial} \in D_K$ is any lift of $1 \otimes \partial$ with respect to the structure map $D_K \rightarrow K \otimes_k D_k$.

- (iii) Suppose in addition to (ii) that $K = k(x)$ and $\partial_x(x) = 1$. Then, for any class in $K/(\partial_x K)$, there is a unique representative of the form

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{b_i}{x - c_i}, \quad b_i, c_i \in k, \quad b_i \neq 0.$$

Since

$$\partial \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{b_i}{x - c_i} \right] = \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial b_i}{x - c_i} \right],$$

we obtain isomorphisms of D_k -modules

$$\bigoplus_{c \in k} k \cong K/(\partial_x K) \cong H^1(K/k).$$

5.2 PPV extensions defined by integrals

As above, let (K, D_K) be a parameterized differential field over (k, D_k) . Given an element $\omega \in \Omega_{K/k}$ with $\mathbf{d}\omega = 0$, the equation $\mathbf{d}y = \omega$ corresponds to a consistent system of (non-homogenous) linear differential equations in the unknown y

$$\delta(y) = \omega(\delta), \quad \delta \in D_{K/k}.$$

Note that Lemma 4.10 remains valid if one assumes that M is a D_k -finitely generated module over k instead of being finite-dimensional over k . We use this generality in the following statement. Its special case appears in [46, Lemma 2.3].

PROPOSITION 5.2. *Let L be a PPV extension of K for the system of linear differential equations that corresponds to the equation $\mathbf{d}y = \omega$, where $\omega \in \Omega_K$ with $\mathbf{d}\omega = 0$ (see above). Let M be the D_k -submodule in $H^1(K/k)$ generated by $[\omega]$ (see Section 5.1). Then there is an isomorphism of linear D_k -groups (see Lemma 4.10 and the remark preceding the proposition)*

$$\mathrm{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K) \cong (M^\vee)^{D_k}.$$

Proof. The proof is in the spirit of the Kummer and Artin–Schreier theories, for example, see [27, Chapter VI, §8]. Let R be a D_k -algebra. The natural map

$$\alpha : R \otimes_k H^1(K/k) \rightarrow R \otimes_k H^1(L/k)$$

is a morphism of D_k -modules. Since L contains a solution of the equation $\mathbf{d}y = \omega$, we have $\alpha([\omega]) = 0$. Therefore, for any $\eta \in R \otimes_k \Omega_{K/k}$ with $\mathbf{d}\eta = 0$ and $[\eta] \in R \otimes_k M$, we have

$$\alpha([\eta]) = 0.$$

Thus, the equation $\mathbf{d}y = \eta$ has a solution in $R \otimes_k L$. Let $\int \eta \in R \otimes_k L$ denote any of these solutions. For each $g \in \mathrm{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K)(R)$, consider the map

$$\phi_g : R \otimes_k M \rightarrow R, \quad [\eta] \mapsto g(\int \eta) - \int \eta.$$

One checks that $\phi_g([\eta])$ is well-defined, that is, does not depend on the choices of η and $\int \eta$ for a given $[\eta]$, and belongs to

$$R = (R \otimes_k L)^{D_{K/k}}.$$

Further,

$$\phi_g \in (M^\vee)^{D_k},$$

that is, ϕ_g is a D_k -map: for any $\partial \in D_k$ and its lift $\tilde{\partial} \in D_K$, we have

$$\partial(\phi_g([\eta])) = \tilde{\partial}(g(\int \eta)) - \tilde{\partial}(\int \eta) = g(\tilde{\partial}(\int \eta)) - \tilde{\partial}(\int \eta) = g(\int L_{\tilde{\partial}} \eta) - \int L_{\tilde{\partial}} \eta = \phi_g(\partial[\eta]),$$

because the restriction of $\tilde{\partial}$ from $R \otimes_k L$ to R is ∂ , g commutes with $\tilde{\partial}$, \mathbf{d} commutes with $L_{\tilde{\partial}}$, and by (14) (see Section 5.1). Also, for all $g, h \in \text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K)(R)$, we have

$$hg(\int \eta) - h(\int \eta) = g(\int \eta) - \int \eta,$$

as the right-hand side belongs to R and is Galois invariant. Therefore,

$$\phi_{hg} = \phi_h + \phi_g.$$

Summing up, we obtain a morphism of linear D_k -groups

$$\phi : \text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K) \rightarrow (M^\vee)^{D_k}.$$

Since L is D_K -generated over K by $\int \omega$, we see that ϕ is injective. Suppose that ϕ is not surjective. Then there is a non-zero element $[\eta] \in M$ such that, for any D_k -algebra R over k and any $g \in \text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K)(R)$, we have

$$\phi_g([\eta]) = 0.$$

Equivalently, for any $g \in \text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K)(R)$, we have

$$g(\int \eta) = \int \eta,$$

whence $\int \eta \in K$ and $[\eta] = 0$ in $H^1(K/k)$, which is a contradiction. Thus, ϕ is an isomorphism. \square

The fact that the parameterized differential Galois group in Proposition 5.2 does not depend of the PPV extension corresponds directly to Remark 4.11(ii).

EXAMPLE 5.3.

- (i) Assume that $D_k = k \cdot \partial_t$. Let $0 \neq D$ be a linear ∂_t -operator with coefficients in k of the smallest order such that

$$D[\omega] = 0 \text{ in } H^1(K/k).$$

If there is no non-zero D with $D[\omega] = 0$, then we put $D := 0$. Proposition 5.2 and the discussion following Lemma 4.10 imply that $\text{Gal}(L/K)$ is isomorphic to the D_k -subgroup in \mathbf{G}_a given by the equation

$$Du = 0, \quad u \in \mathbf{G}_a.$$

- (ii) We use the notation of Example 5.1 (iii). By Proposition 5.2, the parameterized differential Galois group of the equation $\mathbf{d}y = \omega$ with

$$\omega = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{b_i}{x - c_i} \cdot \omega_x, \quad b_i, c_i \in k, \quad b_i \neq 0,$$

is isomorphic to $(\mathbf{G}_a^n)^c$. This is also explained in [5, Example 7.1].

Surprisingly, the description of the parameterized differential Galois group given in Proposition 5.2 allows to prove the existence of a PPV extension. For simplicity, suppose that $D_k = k \cdot \partial_t$ and let D be as in Example 5.3(i). Let $\tilde{\partial}_t \in D_K$ be a lift of $1 \otimes \partial_t$ with respect to the structure map $D_K \rightarrow K \otimes_k D_k$ and let a linear D_K -operator \tilde{D} be the corresponding lift of D . Since $D[\omega] = 0$, there is $a \in K$ such that

$$L_{\tilde{D}}(\omega) = \mathbf{d}a \tag{15}$$

by (14) and the preceding discussion (see Section 5.1). An equation similar to (15) was considered in [46] and [7]. Consider the D_K -algebra

$$R := K\{y\} / \left(\mathbf{d}y - \omega, \tilde{D}y - a \right)_{D_K}, \quad (16)$$

where $(\Sigma)_{D_K}$ denotes the D_K -differential ideal generated by Σ , and $\mathbf{d}y - \omega$ means the collection

$$\delta(y) - \omega(\delta), \quad \delta \in D_{K/k}.$$

Note that R is isomorphic as a K -algebra to the ring of polynomials over K (possibly, of countably many variables). In particular, R is a domain.

PROPOSITION 5.4. *In the above notation, the field $L := \text{Frac}(R)$ is a PPV extension of K for the equation $\mathbf{d}y = \omega$.*

Proof. Let l be a D_k -field over k and suppose that the proposition is true for the parameterized field

$$K_l := \text{Frac}(l \otimes_k K)$$

over l (see [15, Section 8.2] for the extension of $D_{K/k}$ -constants in parameterized differential fields). That is, suppose that

$$L_l := \text{Frac}(l \otimes_k R)$$

is a PPV extension of K_l for the equation $\mathbf{d}y = \omega$. Therefore, $L_l^{D_{K/k}} = l$. On the other hand, by [15, Corollary 8.9], we have that

$$L_l^{D_{K/k}} = l \otimes_k L^{D_{K/k}},$$

whence $L^{D_{K/k}} = k$ and we obtain the needed result for L . Thus, we may assume that (k, D_k) is differentially closed.

Now suppose that the proposition is true for a and let $a' \in K$ be another element such that

$$L_{\tilde{D}}(\omega) = \mathbf{d}a'.$$

Then $a' = a + b$ with $b \in k$. Since (k, D_k) is differentially closed, there is $c \in k$ such that $Dc = b$. This defines an isomorphism

$$R \rightarrow K\{y\} / \left(\mathbf{d}y - \omega, \tilde{D}y - a' \right)_{D_K}, \quad y \mapsto y - c.$$

Thus, it is enough to show that there is at least one $a \in K$ with $L_{\tilde{D}}(\omega) = \mathbf{d}a$ such that the proposition is true for a .

Again, since (k, D_k) is differentially closed, there is a PPV extension E of K for the equation $\mathbf{d}y = \omega$ by [5, Theorem 3.5(1)]. Let $z \in E$ be a solution of the latter equation. Consider the subring S in E that is D_K -generated by z . We have that

$$L_{\tilde{D}}(\omega) = \mathbf{d}(\tilde{D}z).$$

Since $E^{D_{K/k}} = k$, we see that $\tilde{D}z \in K$. Put

$$a := \tilde{D}z.$$

Then we obtain a surjective D_K -morphism $f : R \rightarrow S$ sending y to z .

By Proposition 5.2 and Example 5.3(i), $\text{Gal}^{D_K}(E/K)$ is isomorphic to the D_k -subgroup in \mathbf{G}_a given by the equation

$$Du = 0, \quad u \in \mathbf{G}_a.$$

It follows from the proof of Proposition 5.2 that the action of $\text{Gal}^{D_K}(E/K)$ on E is given by the formula

$$u : z \mapsto z + u.$$

Let G be the extension of scalars from k to K of $\mathrm{Gal}^{D_K}(E/K)$ as a (pro-)algebraic group over k . It follows from the PPV theory that $\mathrm{Spec}(S)$ is a torsor under G over K (see [5, Section 9.4]). By the explicit description of R , $\mathrm{Spec}(R)$ is also a torsor under G and f corresponds to a closed embedding $\mathrm{Spec}(S) \rightarrow \mathrm{Spec}(R)$ of G -torsors. We conclude that f is an isomorphism, which proves the proposition for the above choice of a . \square

6. Isomonodromic differential equations

In this section, we show how Proposition 3.10 can be applied to isomonodromic parameterized linear differential equations. The main results here are in Theorem 6.3 and Theorem 6.6. Section 6.2 provides an analytic interpretation of our results. The main illustrating examples are in Section 6.3 (see also Example 6.5).

6.1 Main results

Let (K, D_K) be a parameterized differential field over (k, D_k) and N be a finite-dimensional $D_{K/k}$ -module over K .

DEFINITION 6.1. We say that N is *isomonodromic* if there is a D_K -structure on N such that its restriction from D_K to $D_{K/k}$ is equal to the initial $D_{K/k}$ -structure on N .

This is called complete integrability in [5, Definition 3.8], but we preferred to use the terminology slightly more common in differential equations for this notion (see also Section 6.2).

PROPOSITION 6.2. A finite-dimensional $D_{K/k}$ -module N is isomonodromic if and only if there is a D_k -structure on N in $\mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k})$.

Proof. We use facts about the Atiyah functor At^1 in $\mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k})$ that can be found in [15, Section 5.1]. We have the equality of sets (see [15, equation (17)])

$$\mathrm{At}^1(N) = \left\{ n \otimes 1 + \sum_i n_i \otimes \omega_i \in N \oplus (N \otimes_K \Omega_K) \mid \forall \delta \in D_{K/k}, \delta(n) = \sum_i \omega_i(\delta) n_i \right\}$$

(we are not specifying K -linear and D_K structures on $\mathrm{At}^1(N)$ here). Further,

$$\mathrm{At}^1(N) \subset \mathrm{At}_K^1(N),$$

where At_K^1 denotes the Atiyah functor in $\mathbf{Vect}(K)$. Assume that there is a D_k -structure $s_N : N \rightarrow \mathrm{At}_K^1(N)$ on N in $\mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k})$. Since the forgetful functor

$$\mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}(K)$$

is differential (see [15, Theorem 5.1]), the composition

$$N \xrightarrow{s_N} \mathrm{At}_K^1(N) \longrightarrow \mathrm{At}^1(N)$$

defines a D_K -structure on N that extends the given $D_{K/k}$ -structure. Conversely, assume that N is isomonodromic. Since the D_K -structure extends the given $D_{K/k}$ -structure, we see that the map $N \rightarrow \mathrm{At}_K^1(N)$ factors through $\mathrm{At}^1(N)$ by the construction of At^1 , which gives the needed splitting s_N . \square

For each $\partial \in D_k$, we have a parameterized differential field $(K, D_{K,\partial})$ over (k, D_k) with $D_{K,\partial}$ being the preimage of $K \otimes \partial$ with respect to the structure map $D_K \rightarrow K \otimes_k D_k$. By definition, a finite-dimensional $D_{K/k}$ -module N is ∂ -isomonodromic if and only if it is isomonodromic over $(K, D_{K,\partial})$. By Proposition 6.2, this is equivalent to the existence of a ∂ -structure on N in $\mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k})$. Note that we have a morphism of differential fields $(k, D_k) \rightarrow (K, D_K)$ (while there is no fixed D_k -field structure on K) and the forgetful functor $\mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k}) \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}(K)$ is a faithful differential functor (see [15, Theorem 5.1]). Thus, combining Proposition 3.10, Proposition 3.3, and Proposition 6.2, we obtain the following result.

THEOREM 6.3. *Suppose that (k, D_k) is filtered-linearly closed. Then N is isomonodromic if and only if there is a (possibly, non-commuting) basis $\partial_1, \dots, \partial_d$ in D_k over k such that N is ∂_i -isomonodromic for all i .*

It seems hard to prove Theorem 6.3 only in terms of $D_{K/k}$ -modules instead of D_k -categories. The latter allows one to work purely with the field k instead of K and use its differential properties. This is the advantage of our approach.

Remark 6.4. Let us explain Theorem 6.3 more explicitly in the case mentioned in the introduction: $\dim_K(D_{K/k}) = 1$ and $\dim_k(D_k) = d$. All matrices below have entries from a field K of functions in the variables x, t_1, \dots, t_d . Assume that the subfield $k \subset K$ of function in t_1, \dots, t_d has the following property: all linear differential equations that involve $\partial_{t_1}, \dots, \partial_{t_i}$, $1 \leq i \leq d-1$, have a fundamental solution matrix with entries from k . Let A be a matrix with entries from K . Suppose that there are matrices B_1, \dots, B_d that satisfy

$$\partial_{t_i} A - \partial_x B_i = [B_i, A]. \quad (17)$$

Then Theorem 6.3 asserts the existence of matrices A_1, \dots, A_d such that

$$\partial_{t_i} A - \partial_x A_i = [A_i, A] \quad (18)$$

and, for all i, j , $1 \leq i, j \leq d$, we have

$$\partial_{t_i} A_j - \partial_{t_j} A_i = [A_i, A_j]. \quad (19)$$

EXAMPLE 6.5. We will see that, in general, the A_i 's in the above have to be different from the original B_i 's. Let $d \geq 2$ and $(n \times n)$ -matrices A, A_1, \dots, A_d with entries in K as above satisfy all the integrability conditions (18) and (19). Define

$$B_1 := A_1, \dots, B_{d-1} := A_{d-1}, B_d := A_d + \text{diag}(t_1),$$

where $\text{diag}(t_1)$ denotes the diagonal $(n \times n)$ -matrix with t_1 on the diagonal. Then the new set of matrices A, B_1, \dots, B_d will still satisfy (17) but will not satisfy the integrability condition for the pair of derivations ∂_{t_1} and ∂_{t_d} .

Let \mathcal{U} be a D_k -closure of k , $K_{\mathcal{U}} := \text{Frac}(\mathcal{U} \otimes_k K)$. By [15, Proposition 8.11], we have

$$\mathcal{U} \otimes_k \mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k}) \cong \mathbf{DMod}(K_{\mathcal{U}}, D_{K_{\mathcal{U}}/\mathcal{U}})$$

Below, we extend [5, Proposition 3.9(1)] to the case when (k, D_k) is not necessarily differentially closed, which we also prove categorically.

THEOREM 6.6. *In the above notation let L be a PPV extension for $N_{K_{\mathcal{U}}}$ (which exists by [5, Theorem 3.5(1)]), $V := N_L^{D_{K/k}}$, and let $\text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K_{\mathcal{U}}) \subset \text{GL}(V)$ be the parameterized differential Galois group of L over $K_{\mathcal{U}}$. Suppose that (k, D_k) is filtered-linearly closed. Then N is isomonodromic if and only if $\text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K_{\mathcal{U}})$ is conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\text{GL}(V)$.*

Proof. Let \mathcal{C} be the subcategory in $\mathbf{DMod}(K_{\mathcal{U}}, D_{K_{\mathcal{U}}/\mathcal{U}})$ that is D_k -tensor generated by $N_{K_{\mathcal{U}}}$ (see [15, Definition 4.19]). Recall that L defines a D_k -fiber functor

$$\omega : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathbf{Vect}(\mathcal{U})$$

such that $\omega(N_{K_{\mathcal{U}}}) = V$ and $\text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K_{\mathcal{U}})$ is the associated D_k -group (see [15, Theorem 5.5]). More precisely, there is an equivalence of D_k -categories

$$\mathcal{C} \cong \mathbf{Rep}(\text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K_{\mathcal{U}}))$$

sending $N_{K_{\mathcal{U}}}$ to V . Thus, combining Proposition 6.2, Proposition 3.12, and Proposition 4.3, we obtain the required result. \square

6.2 Analytic interpretation

We will now explain in more detail the relation between the analytic notion of isomonodromicity and Definition 6.1. Let $f : X \rightarrow S$ be a holomorphic submersion between connected complex analytic manifolds with connected fibers such that f is topologically locally trivial. Let E be a holomorphic vector bundle on X and $\nabla_{X/S}$ be a relative flat holomorphic connection on E over S (that is, the connection $\nabla_{X/S}$ is defined only along vector fields on X that are tangent to the fibers of f). For a subset $\Sigma \subset S$, put

$$X_\Sigma := f^{-1}(\Sigma).$$

In particular, X_s denotes the fiber of f at a point $s \in S$.

Let U be a sufficiently small open neighborhood of a point $s \in S$ such that there is a smooth isomorphism

$$\phi : U \times X_s \xrightarrow{\sim} X_U$$

whose restriction to $\{s\} \times X_s$ coincides with the embedding $X_s \hookrightarrow X_U$. This gives a collection of smooth isomorphisms

$$\phi_{st} : X_s \xrightarrow{\sim} X_t,$$

where $t \in U$, and a section $\sigma : U \rightarrow X_U$. Also, choose a trivialization

$$\psi : \mathbb{C}^n \times U \xrightarrow{\sim} \sigma^* E.$$

Then the connection $\nabla_{X/S}$ defines a family of relative monodromy representations $\rho_t, t \in U$, as the composition

$$\pi_1(X_s, \sigma(s)) \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi_1(X_t, \sigma(t)) \longrightarrow \mathrm{GL}_n((\sigma^* E)_t) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{GL}_n((\sigma^* E)_s) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{C}).$$

The isomorphism classes of the representations ρ_t do not depend on the choices of ϕ and ψ .

We say that $(E, \nabla_{X/S})$ is *analytically isomonodromic* if the isomorphism classes of the relative monodromy representations ρ_s are locally constant over S (for example, see [41, Section 1]). It is shown in [41, Proof of 1.2(1), first step] that $(E, \nabla_{X/S})$ is analytically isomonodromic if and only if, for any point $s \in S$, there is an open neighborhood $s \in U \subset S$ such that $\nabla_{X/S}$ extends to a flat holomorphic connection on E over X_U (see also [45, Theorem A.5.2.3] for the case of one-dimensional fibers). This is a version of Definition 6.1 in the analytic context.

Let us give an analytic interpretation of Theorem 6.3. By definition, $(E, \nabla_{X/S})$ is analytically isomonodromic along a holomorphic vector field v on S if and only if the relative monodromy representations are locally constant along (local) holomorphic curves on S that are tangent to v . Thus, $(E, \nabla_{X/S})$ is analytically isomonodromic if and only if it is analytically isomonodromic along d transversal vector fields on S , where $d := \dim(S)$. Combining this with the property of analytic isomonodromicity discussed above, we obtain an analytic proof of following weaker version of Theorem 6.3:

Let k (respectively, D_k) be the field of meromorphic functions (respectively, the space of meromorphic vector fields) on S . Analogously, define K and D_K for X in place of S . Assume that a finite-dimensional $D_{K/k}$ -module N satisfies the partial isomonodromicity condition from Theorem 6.3. Then there is a point $s \in S$ such that N is isomonodromic over the parameterized differential field K_s over k_s , where k_s is the field of meromorphic functions on open neighborhoods of s in S and K_s is the field of meromorphic functions on open subsets in X whose intersection with X_s is dense in X_s .

In general, one cannot replace K_s by the field of meromorphic functions along all X_s . However, the results from [19, 20] allow to similarly treat the latter case when the fibers of f are complex projective lines with finite sets of points removed. Finally, the need of replacing k by k_s reflects the requirement for (k, D_k) to be filtered-linearly closed in Theorem 6.3.

6.3 Examples

First, we provide a non-trivial example to Theorem 6.3 showing that its statement is not true for an arbitrary field (k, D_k) . Namely, in the notation Example 4.7, we construct a parameterized field K over the field (k, D_k) and a PPV extension $K \subset L$ such that $\text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K) \cong G$ and the solution space corresponds to the representation V . We are very grateful to M. Singer, who suggested a general method for constructing PPV extensions with a given parameterized differential Galois group to us.

EXAMPLE 6.7. The following example is based on iterated integrals. Let $k := \mathbb{Q}(t_1, t_2)$ and $D_k := k \cdot \partial_{t_1} \oplus k \cdot \partial_{t_2}$. Let

$$F := k \left(\partial_x^i \partial_{t_1}^{j_1} \partial_{t_2}^{j_2} I_m \right), \quad i, j_1, j_2 \geq 0, m = 1, 2,$$

be the field of $\{\partial_x, \partial_{t_1}, \partial_{t_2}\}$ -rational functions in the differential indeterminates I_1 and I_2 over k . Put

$$D_F := F \cdot \partial_x \oplus F \cdot \partial_{t_1} \oplus F \cdot \partial_{t_2},$$

and do the analogous for the other fields that appear in what follows. Then (F, D_F) is a parameterized differential field over (k, D_k) . Let L be a PPV extension of F for the equation

$$\partial_x(y) = \partial_x I_1 \cdot I_2 \tag{20}$$

and let $I \in L$ be a solution of this equation (for example, see Proposition 5.4 for the existence of L). A calculation shows that there are no elements $a \in F$ and linear D_k -operators D with coefficients in k such that

$$\partial_x(a) = D(\partial_x I_1 \cdot I_2).$$

By Proposition 5.2, we see that

$$\text{Gal}^{D_F}(L/F) \cong \mathbf{G}_a$$

and, therefore, the elements $\partial^i I \in L$, $i \geq 0$, are algebraically independent over F . Let

$$K \subset L$$

be the $\{\partial_x, \partial_{t_1}, \partial_{t_2}\}$ -subfield generated by

$$\partial_x I_m, \partial_{t_1} I_m, \partial_{t_2} I_m, \quad m = 1, 2,$$

$$J_1 := \partial_{t_1} I - \partial_{t_1} I_1 \cdot I_2 - \frac{1}{t_1} I_2, \quad J_2 := \partial_{t_2} I - \partial_{t_2} I_1 \cdot I_2 + \frac{1}{t_2} I_1.$$

Since I satisfies (20) and $J_1, J_2 \in K$, for all $(i, j_1, j_2) \neq (0, 0, 0)$, we have

$$\partial_x^i \partial_{t_1}^{j_1} \partial_{t_2}^{j_2} (I) \in K(I_2).$$

Therefore,

$$L = K(I_1, I_2, I).$$

One can show that I_1, I_2, I are algebraically independent over K using a characteristic set argument with respect to any orderly ranking of the derivatives with $I > I_1 > I_2$ [24, Sections I.8–I.10]. Put

$$f_i := \partial_x I_i \in K, \quad i = 1, 2$$

and consider the equation

$$\partial_x(y) = A_{\partial_x} \cdot y, \quad y := {}^t(y_1, y_2, y_3), \quad A_{\partial_x} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & f_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & f_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{21}$$

Then

$$\Phi := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & I_1 & I \\ 0 & 1 & I_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is the fundamental matrix for the equation (21), that is, I is the iterated integral $\int_x (f_1 \cdot \int_x f_2)$. Hence L is a PPV extension of K for the equation (21).

In what follows, U and G are as in Example 4.7. We see that $\text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K)$ is a linear D_k -subgroup in U , where U acts on Φ by multiplication on the right. Explicitly, we have

$$g(u_1, u_2, v)(I_i) = I_i + u_i, \quad g(u_1, u_2, v)(I) = I + I_1 u_2 + v.$$

A calculation shows that $K \subset L^G$. By a dimension argument, we conclude that $\text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K) = G$. By Example 4.7, the equation (21) is not isomonodromic. On the other hand, this equation is ∂_{t_i} -isomonodromic, $i = 1, 2$ with the corresponding matrices given by

$$B_i := \Phi \cdot \tilde{B}_i \cdot \Phi^{-1} + \partial_{t_i} \Phi \cdot \Phi^{-1}, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

where

$$\tilde{B}_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{t_1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{B}_2 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{t_2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

More explicitly,

$$B_1 := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{t_1} + \partial_{t_1} I_1 & J_1 \\ 0 & 0 & \partial_{t_1} I_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \partial_{t_2} I_1 & J_2 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{t_2} + \partial_{t_2} I_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus, we see that Theorem 6.3 is not true for an arbitrary field (k, D_k) .

The purpose of the rest of the section is to show that, in Theorem 6.6, one really needs to take the extension of scalars from k to \mathcal{U} in order to obtain conjugacy to a constant group. Namely, we construct examples of an isomonodromic $D_{K/k}$ -module N such that there are PPV extensions of K for N , but, for any PPV extension L , the parameterized differential Galois group $\text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K)$ is not a constant group and, thus, $\text{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K)$ is not conjugate to a constant subgroup in $\text{GL}_n(k)$.

The idea of the examples is as follows. We construct a parameterized differential field (K, D_K) over (k, D_k) and $\omega \in \Omega_{K/k}$ with $d\omega = 0$ such that the D_k -submodule

$$M \subset H^1(K/k)$$

generated by $[\omega]$ is finite-dimensional over k and is not trivial as a D_k -module. By Propositions 5.2 and 5.4, there are PPV extensions of K for the equation $dy = \omega$ and any of them has the parameterized differential Galois group isomorphic to $(M^\vee)^{D_k}$. Since $\mathbf{Rep}((M^\vee)^{D_k})$ is D_k -equivalent to a D_k -subcategory in $\mathbf{DMod}(K, D_{K/k})$, the (faithful) D_k -representation V_{M^\vee} of $(M^\vee)^{D_k}$ (see Remark 4.11(i)) corresponds to an isomonodromic $D_{K/k}$ -module N (see Proposition 6.2).

Let us give an explicit description. Suppose that

$$D_k = k \cdot \partial_t, \quad D_K = K \cdot \partial_x \oplus K \cdot \partial_t, \quad \text{and} \quad [\partial_x, \partial_t] = 0.$$

Let $\omega_x \in \Omega_{K/k}$ be such that $\omega_x(\partial_x) = 1$. Then $\omega = b \cdot \omega_x$ with $b \in K$. Suppose that there exists a non-zero monic

linear ∂_t -operator D as in Example 5.3(i). Explicitly,

$$D = \partial_t^n - \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i \partial_t^i, \quad c_i \in k,$$

is of the smallest order such that there is $a \in K$ with $D(b) = \partial_x(a)$ (see Example 5.1(ii)). One can show that the differential module N defined above corresponds to the following system of linear differential equations:

$$\partial_x(y) = A_{\partial_x} \cdot y, \quad y := {}^t(y_0, \dots, y_n), \quad A_{\partial_x} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ b & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \partial_t(b) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \dots & \\ \partial_t^{n-1}(b) & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

By Proposition 5.4, there is a PPV extension L of K for N and $L = K(z, \partial_t(z), \dots)$, where $\partial_x(z) = b$. By Proposition 5.2 and its proof combined with Example 5.3(i), the morphism of linear D_k -groups

$$\mathrm{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K) \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_a, \quad g \mapsto g(z) - z$$

induces an isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Gal}^{D_K}(L/K) \xrightarrow{\sim} \{u \in \mathbf{G}_a \mid Du = 0\} \subset \mathbf{G}_a.$$

The ∂_x -module N is isomonodromic with

$$A_{\partial_t} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \ddots & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ a & c_0 & c_1 & \dots & c_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now we give concrete examples with $k = \mathbb{Q}(t)$ and K being a generated by functions in t and x . We construct $b \in K$ such that there exists a linear ∂_t -operator D as above and the equation $Du = 0$ in u is non-trivial over $\mathbb{Q}(t)$.

EXAMPLE 6.8. This examples comes from the algebraic independence of the derivatives of the incomplete Gamma-function (see [21]). Put

$$E := \mathbb{Q}(t, x, \log x, x^{t-1}e^{-x}), \quad D_E := E \cdot \partial_x \oplus E \cdot \partial_t.$$

By Proposition 5.4, there is a PPV extension L of E for the equation

$$\partial_x(y) = x^{t-1}e^{-x}. \tag{22}$$

As noted in [5, Example 7.2], by [21], there is an isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Gal}^{D_E}(L/E) \cong \mathbf{G}_a.$$

Let $\gamma \in K$ be a solution of (22) and put

$$K := E(\partial_t(\gamma) - \gamma, \partial_t^2(\gamma) - \partial_t(\gamma), \dots) \subset L.$$

Since $\mathrm{Gal}^{D_E}(L/E) \cong \mathbf{G}_a$, the parameterized Galois theory implies that $\gamma \notin K$. The element

$$b := x^{t-1}e^{-x} \in K$$

satisfies

$$D(b) = \partial_x(a), \quad D := \partial_t - 1, \quad a := \partial_t(\gamma) - \gamma \in K.$$

The operator D is of the smallest order, because $b \notin \partial_x(K)$ as $\gamma \notin K$. Note that K is of infinite transcendence degree over $\mathbb{Q}(t, x)$, because $\mathrm{Gal}^{D_E}(K/E) \cong \mathbf{G}_a$.

EXAMPLE 6.9. This example comes from the Gauss–Manin connection for the Legendre family of elliptic curves. Namely, put $K := \mathbb{Q}(t, x, z)$, where $z^2 = x(x-1)(x-t)$. Then the element

$$b := \frac{1}{z} \in K$$

satisfies

$$D(b) = \partial_x(a), \quad D := -2t(t-1)\partial_t^2 - (4t-2)\partial_t - \frac{1}{2}, \quad a := \frac{z}{(x-t)^2} \in K.$$

The operator D is of the smallest order (for example, this follows from a monodromy argument, see [8, Section 2.10]).

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